

REMARKS**Status of claims**

Claims 1-31 are pending in the above application. Claims 1-16 and 19-21 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 18 and 29-32 have been allowed and Claims 17 and 22-28 stand rejected. Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful consideration of this case, and request reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

102(e) rejection of claims 17 and 22-28

Claims 17, and 22-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,972,503 ("Woodside").

The present invention, as claimed in claims 17, and 22-28, all require the formation of a string binder having at least one layer of catalyst composition applied prior to the solvent-free binder resin composition.

Woodside does not describe a string binder material, as Applicants' claim, but instead describes a prepreg material. Contrary to the Examiner's analysis, **the prepreg material in Woodside is not formed by introducing a catalyst composition as a pre-coating.** Woodside's only mention of a catalyst is in col. 20, lines 57-67 to col. 21, lines 1-3, "The chemical treatment may also include one or more processing aids."

Applicants' claims 17, 22, 23, and 26 teach a string binder (claim 17), a preform (claim 22), a molded composite article (claim 23) or a multi-end roving (claim 26). Each of claims 17, 22, 23 and 26 having the following in common:

at least one layer of a **pre-coating of a catalyst** composition applied to a surface of each of said at least one strand of said fibrous carrier substrate....

at least one layer of a **solvent-free binder resin** composition applied to an outer layer of said at least one layer of said pre-coating...

Father, as described in the Applicants' application on page 30, beginning at line 4:

"Where the catalyst composition is applied as a separate layer in the form of a pre-coating or post-coating, it has been found that the adhesion of both the catalyst composition and the binder resin composition to the surfaces of the fibrous carrier substrate is improved. In both respects, the presence of the carrier material in combination with the catalyst improves coating ability of the catalyst composition, and as a result flaking and peeling of the dried catalyst composition and binder resin composition from the surfaces of the fibrous carrier substrate is reduced by as much as about 93%."

Woodside et al. teach applying a chemical treatment to a plurality of fibers to form preimpregnated fibers. Woodside et al. teach that the chemical treatment may also include one or more processing aids (such as a catalyst). Nowhere do Woodside et al. teach or suggest at least one layer of a **pre-coating of a catalyst a solvent-free binder resin composition applied to a surface of each of said at least one strand of said fibrous carrier substrate and at least one of a solvent-free binder resin composition applied to an outer layer of said at least one layer of said pre-coating**, as Applicants claim (claims 17).

Claims 24-25 ultimately depend from claim 23 and claims 27-28 ultimately depend from claim 26 all of which contain the limitations of the independent claims. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention defines over the Woodside et al. reference and requests that the 102(e) rejection of claims 17 and 22-28 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the claims are allowable. The Examiner is invited to telephone the

Applicants' undersigned agent at (740) 321-7213 if any unresolved matters remain.

If any questions should arise with respect to the above Remarks, or if the Examiner has any comments or suggestions to place the claims in better condition for allowance, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' agent at the number listed below.

Applicant authorizes any fees required pertaining to this response be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0568.

Respectfully submitted,

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